REMARKS

As an initial matter, the Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for approving the Drawings filed July 13, 2001, acknowledging Applicants' claim to foreign priority and receipt of the foreign priority document, and considering the documents cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on August 3, 2001.

Claims 1-6 are pending in the application. Claims 1-5 have been amended, and claim 6 is newly added. Reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the pending application in view of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

The present invention relates to a circuit arrangement for forming the termination of an analog subscriber line. The circuit arrangement of the present invention includes first and second connections for connecting to a subscriber line. The first connection is connected to the second connection by a series circuit which includes a first capacitor, a variable resistor, and a second capacitor. The circuit arrangement also includes a DC operating point setting circuit for setting the DC operating point for the circuit arrangement by adjusting the variable resistor based on DC voltage values measured at a first node located between the first capacitor and the variable resistor, and at a second node located between the second capacitor and the variable resistor.

In the Office Action of November 15, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Price (U.S. Patent No. 6,393,110).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for at least the following reasons.

Price relates to a digital access arrangement (DAA) circuit. The DAA circuit includes nodes 404 and 406 for receiving downstream data from tip and ring lines, respectively. See Figure 4 and col. 9, lines 58-59. The DAA circuit also includes capacitors C12 and C13 and resistor R20, which are connected between the tip and ring nodes. See Figure 4.

In the Office Action, the Examiner admitted that Price's DAA circuit does not include a variable resistor. However, the Examiner asserted that Price discloses a need for adjusting resistor R20, and further asserted that it would have been obvious to use a variable resistor in place of resistor R20 because adding an adjustable feature is not a patentable advance. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Price discloses, in col. 9, lines 46-53, that the resistor divider, which comprises resistors R19 and R20 (see Figure 4), "is set to minimize the transmit signal for the receive data path." Applicants submit that there is no suggestion whatsoever of a need for adjusting the resistor divider. Although Price discloses that the resistors R19 and R20 are "set" it does not suggest that there is a need for them to be reset or adjusted. In other words, the Examiner, not the prior art, interprets "setting" to imply "adjusting". Since there is thus no suggested need for adjustability in the Price disclosure, Applicants submit that it would not be obvious to replace Price's resistors R19 or R20 with a variable

resistor.

However, even assuming, *arguendo*, that it would be obvious to replace Price's resistors R19 or R20 with a variable resistor, Price fails to disclose or suggest a DC operating point setting circuit connected to the variable resistor and configured to adjust the variable resistor based on DC voltage values measured at a first node located between capacitor C12 and the variable resistor, and at a second node located between capacitor C13 and the variable resistor, as recited in claim 1. The DC operating point of the circuit arrangement of the present invention is easily regulated by use of the DC source and the DC operating point setting circuit, whereas the DC operating point of Prices' DAA circuit is fixed.

Accordingly, the rejection of claim 1 is improper, and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested. Dependent claims 2-6 are also submitted to be in condition for allowance at least in view of their dependence on claim 1.

Based on the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Entry and consideration of the present amendment, reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action, and allowance of the present application and all of the claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate.

Applicant has made a sincere effort to place the present invention in condition for allowance and believes that he has now done so.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
J. HAUPTMANN et al.

William Pieprz
Reg. No. 33,630

Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

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GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191